Explanation of Plate IX.

Outline, slightly diagrammatic, drawings of male prothorax of the species of *Silis* in America, north of Mexico.

Fig. 1. *Silis spinigera* Lec.
Fig. 2. *Silis tricornis* n. sp.
Fig. 3. *Silis difficilis* Lec.
Fig. 4. *Silis cava* Lec.
Fig. 5. *Silis rugosa* n. sp.
Fig. 6. *Silis percomis* Say.
Fig. 7. *Silis pallida* Mann.
Fig. 8. *Silis lutea* Lec.
Fig. 9. *Silis spatulata* Lec.
Fig. 10. *Silis fenestrata* n. sp.
Fig. 11. *Silis arizonica* n. sp.
Fig. 12. *Silis nigerrima* Schaef.
Fig. 13. *Silis abdominalis* Schaef.
Fig. 14. *Silis bidentata* Say.
Fig. 15. *Silis obtusa* Lec.

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF CAVE-DWELLING CARABIDÆ (COLEOPTERA) FROM THE UNITED STATES.

By Edwin C. Van Dyke.

Berkeley, Cal.

While working over the collection of Coleoptera belonging to the department of entomology, Cornell University, this last year, I found among the unassigned material, a very peculiar Carabid which I immediately recognized as something entirely new. This through the courtesy of the department and the discoverer I am permitted to describe. The beetle was kindly figured for me by Mr. C. H. Kennedy.

Comstockia, new genus.

Elongate, slender. Antennæ slender, very long, three basal joints glabrous, first joint stout, second narrow and but two thirds length of first, third three times length of second, fourth to eleventh gradually shorter and fifth to eleventh increasingly stouter. Head elongate elliptical, much prolonged posteriorly and narrowed to a distinct

neck with posterior part a semiglobular condyle; front with two supraorbital setigerous punctures, the posterior with distinct setæ, the anterior faint and without setæ; clypeus moderately prolonged and with setigerous punctures each side; labrum transverse, feebly emarginate, margin sexsetose. Eyes absolutely wanting. Mandibles moderately prominent, prognathous, arcuately acute at tip, and without setigerous puncture in scrobe. Maxillæ slender, ciliate and spinose within, the outer lobe slender and with two equal joints, the palpi slender and long, joints two and three about equal in length, the terminal one three fourths length of third, fusiform, and somewhat robust. Submentum moderately deeply emarginate and with blunt tooth at center; the ligula slender, rounded at apex and bisetose; the

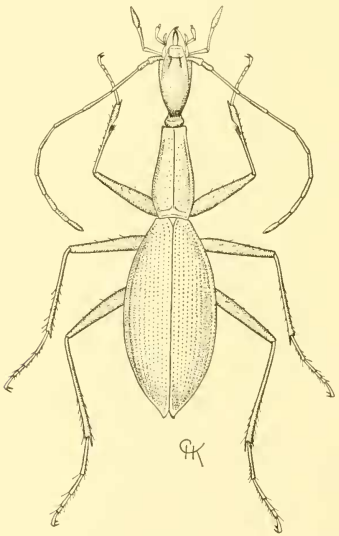

FIG. 1.

palpi slender, last joint oval and acute, the penultimate bisetose in front. Thorax elongate, a bit wider at widest part than head, margin distinct, sides without setæ but with very vague signs of numerous

punctures. Body subpedunculate, scutellum acutely triangular and prolonged between the elytra. Elytra elliptical, not margined at base, lateral margin distinct and entire, without internal plica, apices without sinuation, acute and divergent, disc striate, without evident dorsal punctures. Prosternum carinate in front and slightly prolonged at tip. Mesosternum oblique, the epimera narrow. Metasternal epimera distinct, posterior coxæ supposedly contiguous (specimen somewhat injured at this point). Legs very long and slender; middle and posterior tibiæ slightly ciliate externally, the anterior deeply emarginate one fourth distance from apex, the apical spurs distinct and slender; the tarsi slender, all joints long, slender and simple, the first longer than the two following together, the claws simple.

Genotype: *Comstockia subterranea* n. sp.

This genus is founded upon a peculiar cave-dwelling beetle of the family Carabidæ. Judged by its major characters, it would fall in the tribe *Ctenodactylini* as defined by Horn,[1] but it differs materially from any of the known genera included within that. In general, it has the elongated head of one of the more highly specialized species of *Anophthalmus* like *A. tellkampfi* Er., a cave beetle belonging to another and quite widely separated tribe; a prothorax which simulates in outline that of an *Agra,* a genus of arboreal beetles which show a decided affinity with the *Ctenodactylini;* and elytra which are very similar to certain members of the genus *Platynus,* especially *P. myrmecodes* Horn. It shows in a high degree its adaptation to a cave life as indicated by its bleached-out appearance, its lack of eyes, its extremely long and slightly clubbed antennæ, and very long and delicate legs. It is also interesting as being the first typical cave beetle from North America that shows relationships with genera of southern rather than of northern origin, as indicated by having affinities with *Casnonia* and *Agra,* characteristic genera of South America.

The generic name is given in honor of its discoverer, Professor J. H. Comstock, a man who has contributed so much to the advancement of American entomology.

[1] "On the Genera of Carabidæ with special reference to the fauna of Boreal America," by George H. Horn, M.D., Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., Vol. IX (1881–82), pp. 145–146.

C. subterranea new species.

Pale rufo-testaceous, head and thorax shining. Elytra dull. Head elliptical excluding the globular basal part, about three times as long as broad and three fourths as broad as prothorax, broadly and shallowly grooved at sides of front and with a few fine striæ within the grooves and posterior to the same; the antennæ fully three fourths length of body and with outer joints somewhat enlarged. Prothorax about three times as long as broad, base slightly emarginate. Apex truncate and three fourths width of base, the sides gradually divergent and almost straight from apex to beyond middle where they become slightly arcuate and then gradually sinuate to base, the lateral margin finely but distinctly and acutely defined, more evident basally, the disc smooth and but slightly convex, the median longitudinal line fine and extending from base to close to apex, the anterior and basal transverse lines vaguely defined. Elytra elliptical, over twice as long as broad and two and a half times as broad as thorax, apices of each elytron obtusely pointed and divergent, the lateral margin clearly defined and slightly reflexed, the disc barely convex and with striæ fine and complete, the surface minutely alutaceous. Body beneath dull. Length 8.5 mm., breadth 2 mm.

Type, a unique female captured March 12–18, 1903, in a cave near Austin, Texas, by Professor J. H. Comstock. The specimen is now deposited in the collection of the entomological department of Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y.

BOREAPHILUS, A GENUS OF STAPHYLINID COLEOPTERA NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.

BY HOWARD NOTMAN,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

The genus *Borcaphilus* was first described by Sahlberg. (Ins. Fenn. I, 433, 1.) It has not been possible to consult this description. It is stated by Lacordaire, however, that Erichson's description is a repetition of the original. (Erich. Gen. et Sp. Staph., p. 899; Lac. Gen. des Col., II, p. 138.) It is as follows:

"Palpi anteriores 4-articulati, articulo tertio clavato, ultimo parvo, subulato, posteriores minuti, filiformes. Mandibula elongata, tenuis, falcata, integra. Antennæ subfiliformes, extrorsum paulo crassiores. Corpus postice dilatatum. Caput orbiculatum, subexsertum. Thorax oblongus."